up. Even these 14,143 acres were not being served by the existing system of irrigation. The *elas* were irrigated by numerous tanks, of which 150 were classed as major and Government had taken certain steps to improve them. These tanks had become greatly silted up and their holding capacity had considerably declined. Government allotted some money in 1096 to improve two of these tanks; and at that rate it would take 75 years to improve all the major tanks by which time nearly all of them would again get silted up. The existing feeding channels of these *elas* did not serve the purpose for which they were intended, as, in almost all cases, the main channels ran through the middle of the *ela* with the result that during excessive rains the channels got flooded and the fields became silted up. As an example, he mentioned the breach in the Kottukal *ela* which lost about 135 *paras* of paddy lands in 1080 and caused a loss of revenue to the extent of about Rs. 2,330. Since then, there had been a further loss of 375 *paras* of paddy land. The Member, therefore, suggested that feeding channels better adapted for the distribution of water might he provided. He said that it would be safer to divide the main channel into two branches and take them along the sides of the *ela*. He also urged the imperative necessity of improving the existing water facilities and providing new ones and suggested an extension from the right bank channel to the Pachipara dam. In 1064, the Government spent about Rs. 5,000 for the construction of a dam at the Aruvikara falls in the Maranallur *pakuthi* in order to provide better water facilities for the taluk, but for some reason or other the work was abruptly stopped. The Member suggested that the work might be resumed and the channels laid out whereby the existing fields would be benefited and vast areas of new fields would be opened for paddy cultivation, besides supplying drinking and bathing water to people who lived in places like Tirupuram, Nellikkakuzhi, Karumkulam, Kazhuvur, Nellimudu, Balaramapuram, etc.

Dewan's reply.—I need not add anything to what I have said about rain-fed tanks and *elas* to the previous speakers. With reference to the Aruvikara dam, the Chief Engineer says that it requires a thorough investigation before anything is decided upon. I shall ask him to take up that investigation.

63. Irrigation and other needs of the Pakuthies comprised in Group II of the Trivandrum Taluk.

Mr. N. Madhavan Nair B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) prefaced his observations with the remark that all the inhabitants of the taluk except those residing within the town were agriculturists and that they lived entirely on agriculture. The Member said that the most important and pressing need of the taluk was irrigation for which the most essential thing was an unfailing water supply, and that in the absence of any artificial system of irrigation in the taluk, the people depended entirely on rain-fed tanks for water. Though there were a good many tanks and water-courses in the taluk, all of them were practically useless for purposes of irrigation, having been either utterly neglected or encroached upon by adjacent land owners, with the result that the ryots had to look to the advent of the monsoon, which, however, was both unsteady and inopportune. He cited the failure of the last Kanni crop as an example, when Government had to sanction remission of tax, and referred, in passing, to the want of a uniform principle in granting remission, which was due to the neglected condition of the irrigation works, and to the unsatisfactory economic condition of the people of the taluk, as compared with that of the people of other taluks, combined with the absence of co-operation among them. He prayed that Government might go to their rescue and take the initiative in the matter.

The Member thought that unless a separate Irrigation Department for the whole State under an experienced and capable officer thoroughly sympathetic with the people was constituted and worked hand in hand with the Agricultural Department, the problem of irrigation in the State could not be solved.

The Member suggested the construction of the following major irrigation works entirely at Government cost:—

(1) *The restoration and repair of the Anattazhachira at Pallipuram.*—This was the most important of the irrigation tanks in the taluk and the main source of

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water supply to the wet lands of the Andurkonam, Kazhakuttam, Pallipuram and Attippara *pakuthies*.

(2) *The repair and improvement of the Tettiyar and the removal of encroachments on either side of it.*

This channel took off from Anattazhachira and, running through Pallipuram, Kazhakuttam and Attippara *pakuthies*, served to irrigate more than 500 acres of paddy lands.

(3) *The improvement of the Chempazhanti or Kaita thodu.*

This channel joined the Tettiyar at Attippara and nearly 400 acres of wet lands in the Uliazhattura, Pangappara and Attippara *pakuthies* solely depended on it for irrigation.

(4) *The repair of the Amayar.*

This channel which had its source in the Nedumangad taluk would, if improved, irrigate more than 700 acres of paddy lands in the five *pakuthies* of Mel-Uliazhattura, Oolloor, Madattuvilagam, Vanchiyur and Palkulangara.

Besides the above, the Member suggested the removal of encroachments on, and the restoration of, the several minor tanks scattered throughout the taluk.

The Member next suggested the immediate appointment of a Committee with the Director of Agriculture as President, and the Dewan Peishkar or his Assistant, an Engineering Officer and a few non-officials as members, to thoroughly investigate the condition of the various tanks and channels in the taluk, ascertain the nature of the works to be executed, select them in the order of urgency, decide what portion of the cost of restoration the people of each locality would be able to pay and advise the Government in the matter.

Coming to roads, the Member suggested the following works:—

(1) *The conversion of the Kanjiravilakam-Attippara lane into a cart road.*

The Member stated that this was a long-standing need which had already been brought to the notice of Government.

(2) *Opening of a road from Arasumudu in the Shearam-Trippappur road westwards to the sea beach.*

There was a lane from Arasumudu to the Kulattur police station and if this was converted into a cart road and a bridge constructed across the Channankara canal, it would be very useful, especially to the sea-coast Christians and fisher-women.

(3) *Extension of the Shearam-Trippapur road to the Kazhakuttam Railway station.*

If this extension could be effected, it would be the shortest way for the people of Attippara, Oolloor and some *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad taluk to the Kazhakuttam Railway station which was growing in importance. He pointed out that a survey of the road had been conducted and prayed for the work being sanctioned, at least during the current year.

(4) *Repair of the village road named Vettiode road near Kazhakuttam and joining the road from Shearam to Pothencode at the 5th mile stone on the Pothenkode road and the construction of a wooden bridge across the Tettiyar at the commencement of the road.*

This, being the shortest road from Kazhakuttam and other adjoining places to the Pothenkode market, was largely resorted to and had heavy traffic. The Member said that even the annual maintenance was totally neglected.

In conclusion, the Member said that, ever after the inauguration of the Assembly, though representations after representations were made regarding the needs of the taluk Government had not granted any of the requests, and that Government

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had been devoting their attention solely to the town leaving the rural area to take care of itself.

Dewan's reply.—I would request you to take me to the several places where you say roads should be improved or constructed or taken over by the Government and also to some of the important irrigation works to which you have made reference. I shall be happy to go with you and see these things for myself. I am aware of the fact that the Trivandrum taluk is one of the poorest taluks in the State, and that conditions in regard to irrigation here are very similar to those prevailing in the Neyattinkara, Vilavankod and other adjoining taluks. You say that this is due to want of sympathy and to callousness on the part of Government. I rather think that it is due to the want of method and the policy of drift which seem to have characterised minor irrigation in the State. You are quite right when you say that Government must take the initiative in the matter. I have already indicated my policy in regard to minor irrigation in reply to seveal speakers, and, if we pursue that policy, at the same time remembering that the Irrigation Regulation affords ample opportunity for giving effect to that policy and also for bringing into play a spirit of co-operation among the people, I think that the minor irrigation works in this country are bound to improve. I shall try to pursue that policy to the best of my opportunity.

I entirely agree with you in regard to the Committee suggested by you. I shall issue orders for the appointment of a Committee to look into the several needs of minor irrigation in this taluk.

A Committee would be a very useful thing for arranging the works in the order of urgency, for considering the cost of individual works, and for suggesting how far it would be possible for the people to co-operate with the Government in the matter. I trust that the ryots will co-operate to the fullest extent. I do not believe in a separate Department for minor works. I think that with the co-operation of the people, the Public Works Department can itself attend to all minor and major irrigaton works. In regard to petty irrigation works, it is a thing which the ryots have to do entirely themselves. Government can only give them guidance and advice.

In regard to encroachments, we have appointed Assistant Tahsildars to bring them to notice and to remove them. If these encroachments have not been repressed already, Government hope they will be repressed steadily, and the old channels, water communications and roads which tend to public convenience will be restored to their original dimensions.

64. Certain suggestions for the improvement of the town of Trivandrum.

Mr. P. Padmanabha Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum) began by thanking the Dewan for allowing the members to address from the *dais* where the Dewan and the Officers were seated and for the patient hearing and sympathetic replies the Dewan was giving, and more particularly for the observation made by the Dewan that, as long as he was in Travancore, he would be as much a Travancorean as any of them in the Assembly.

The Member's representations mainly related to (1) the thorough overhauling of the drainage system in the town; (2) the improvement of public tanks; (3) the levelling up and conversion of the Putherikandam fields; and (4) the construction of a commodious and convenient hall for holding public meetings suited to present-day requirements.

Speaking generally of the several towns in the State, the Member stated that Trivandrum, as the capital town, deserved special treatment, and the Trivandrum Municipality as the premier Municipality had a claim to a decent portion of the State funds being spent on its needs.

Coming to the question of drainage, the Member said that, with an area of 10·69 square miles and a population of 72,809, as per the Census of 1921, the question of the health and sanitation of the town had assumed an important aspect requiring special consideration.

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